

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC Military Information from the Altengrabow Training Area

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

6 January 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 3 November 1952, reports of guns, apparently of a large caliber, were heard in the Altengrabow training area. Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 4 November, firing with 8 x ZIS-3 76.2-mm field guns was practiced, with the guns firing from the area of the Briesenthal estate toward the former village of Gloine. Two dummy tanks were being drawn toward the emplacements. At about 6:15 p.m., 12 trucks towing ZIS-3 76.2-mm field guns were seen en route from Altengrabow to Magdeburgerforth. At 1 p.m. on 9 November, an observation balloon was seen over Gloine at an altitude of about 150 meters. The balloon had a length of about 12 meters and a width of about 5 meters. Artillery firing practice from an emplacement near Gloine was held between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on 12 November. At 4:30 p.m., about 250 unarmed troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were marching from the camp to the Altengrabow railroad station. They were preceded by a military band. they were discharges. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 15 November, artillery firing practice was held from an emplacement near Gloine toward Gross Luebars, and between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 16 November, from an emplacement near Briesenthal toward Gloine. At 7 p.m., on 17 November, firing was practiced with 6 x ZIS-3 76.2-mm field guns from the area of Briesenthal toward Gloine. Individual reports were heard. On 30 November, four quartering buildings in the southwest section of the north camp were fully lighted after nightfall, whereas only a few windows and/or no windows were lighted in the other buildings of the north camp. From 24 November to 3 December, only individual soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were seen walking toward the north camp. Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. from 24 November to 3 December, reports of rifles were daily heard from the new firing range just east of Doernitz. No artillery fire was heard during this period, and no loadings and unloadings were observed at the Altengrabow railroad station.

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Comment. According to information contained in the present report, firing practice, probably by small detachments, was held at Altengrabow until mid-November 1952. The 76.2-mm guns observed may partly belong to the 44th Army Arty Brig.

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The south section of the north camp was occupied to capacity in late November, thus indicating that the brigade, until then, can be carried in its previous quarters. The information that the other quarters of the north camp were empty contradicts an assumption that units of the 10th How

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

Arty Brig (US), previously stationed in the Kraftfehrer Kaserne in Rethenow, have been located there after their transfer in late October 1952, probably to Altengrabow. [redacted] The brigade may be stationed in another quartering area of the Altengrabow troop training grounds. The firing with apparently heavy guns, therefore, tends to indicate the presence there of the brigade. In the above mentioned reference report, it was assumed that only elements of the brigade had moved to Altengrabow.

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